

# MUSEUM SERVICE

Bulletin of the  
Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences

VOL. 33

FEBRUARY, 1960

NO. 2



## *Lecture Series . . .*

Illustrated in Color Film

Sponsored by Rochester Museum Association

**Audubon Screen Tour — Saturday, February, 6, 10:30 a.m.**

### **DESIGNS FOR SURVIVAL • William Anderson**

Here is the story of how animals are adapted to cope with their environment in order to survive. Designs for feeding, movement, protection and reproduction in nature illustrated in beautiful film in natural color. Unusual "survivors" include an Angler Fish with its built in fishing pole and bait; an unlikely looking "roving zoological garden" moving across the bottom of the ocean in search of prey. What fun to spot animals, practically invisible, in the forest!

**Wednesday, February 10, 8:15 p.m.**

### **PEOPLE AND PLACES IN INDIA — John Moyer**

To mysterious and strange India - the beautiful Taj Mahal-Calcutta - Native Bazaars - a day with an Indian family - Arts and Crafts - Buddhist Temples and Relics - the Raas Dance (one of the most beautiful) - Manipuri Folk Dance - India's famous drummer playing twelve Indian drums with his fingers. Into the countryside - rice harvest - fishing (primitive methods) - tapping the coconut palms - the famous fire walkers of Banki (never before photographed). India in all its pageantry and color!

## **SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS**

2nd Floor — **SAMPLING OF GIFTS** — wide range of subjects in a selection of objects received during 1959. *On exhibit through February*

**THE EARLY AUTOMOBILE ERA IN ART** — Prints, posters and objects. Lent by the Long Island Automotive Museum. *On exhibit through February*

**THE INDIAN JOURNALS OF LEWIS HENRY MORGAN, 1859-62** — Original manuscripts and material collected in that period.

Library — **MINERALS** — Collections of the Mineral Section, Rochester Academy of Science. *On exhibit to February 4*

**FROM YOUR VALENTINE** — changing fashions in unchanging sentiments. *On exhibit February 7 - 29*

3rd Floor — **PETROLEUM: Its early beginnings** — "Born in Freedom - Working for Progress." Highlights in the first century of the petroleum industry. *On exhibit to Feb. 22*

**VICTORIAN NAPKIN RINGS** — From the collection of the late Mrs. Elizabeth M. Minich.

**BELLS COLLECTED BY MRS. ALFRED W. DUNBAR** — Showcase display by the Women's Council, Rochester Museum Association. *On display through February*

## **FOR JUNIORS**

**TREASURE CHEST** — Pantomime Play - **CANAL TOWN** — February 13 and 27  
Three Showings — 9:30, 10:10 and 11 a.m.



# MUSEUM SERVICE . . .

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Vol. 33

Rochester 7, New York • February, 1960

No. 2

## Focus on People in a Citizens' Museum

"WHOM DOES the museum serve?" is the question often put by the staff member, the visiting sociologist, the city councilman or the museum commissioner. Of course, people of all kinds constitute a museum's clientele. And they are participating people, too. They are not in the majority of the passive type either, because as statistics show, seventy-five percent of our visitors come to hear a lecture, view films, attend a class or guided tour, take part in a club meeting or participate in some other program.

Parents are rightfully impressed when they hear at first hand the story of the museum in the excited words of their seven-year-old youngster. Teachers commend us on the improvement in classroom work after a trip to the museum. And we, too, are pleased that service to youth is one of the museum's contributions of inestimable worth. Still, at the same time, we feel that the museum educational task is supplementary to that of the school. It improves and enriches textbook teaching and the school lesson. However, in the case of the mature person, the adult who has terminated his formal education, our institution has something unique to offer. It is also impressive to realize that of the one hundred and seventy-two thousand persons visiting us last year, two-thirds were adults. Persons beyond the years of schooling appreciate the museum for the fact that it teaches them the heritage of the past in terms of today's values. It shows them relationships in space and time. Besides, it projects the future. Lastly, one can learn a host of facts about man, the earth and about the creatures that creep and crawl. Best of all, the learning process in visual educational terms is relatively painless.

Reflections such as these come to mind after the completion of the seemingly prosaic task of compiling an annual report, a summary of which can be read elsewhere in these pages. But because of their stimulating and at the same time disciplinary effects, annual reports need not necessarily be soporific. In the case of our own report, we can rightfully say that it indicates a flexible organization, assigned a strategic role in education and culture, functioning also as a social instrument for the common good. It is true that museums are dedicated to the preservation and study of objects of man, of nature, of art and of technology, but, just as importantly, their role is to make these treasures meaningful and useful to the average citizen.

It is salutary, too, that a public museum such as ours is owned and operated by the City of Rochester. Tax funds enable us to meet our budgetary requirements and the Municipal Museum Commission, a body of civic-minded persons who volunteer their services, governs its policies and operations. It is the duty of the commission to see that the museum prospers, that it extends its activities where needed and that it conforms to an agreed upon plan of management. Surely, ours is a citizens' museum!

—W. STEPHEN THOMAS, *Director*

## MUSEUM SERVICE

*Bulletin of the*

### ROCHESTER MUSEUM OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

W. STEPHEN THOMAS, *Director*  
MABLE S. SMITH, *Editor*

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**Vol. 33      February, 1960      No. 2**

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### A Course for Bird Watchers

We are offering a course in bird identification and bird habits especially for those who have just become interested in birds. It should help you to identify our 350 or so species of birds without too much difficulty.

The course will start at 8 p.m. on Monday, March 7, at the Museum. There will be about 7 two-hour sessions of lectures, study and examination of birds from the museum's collection and film and slide views of birds.

As many of you know, the instructor, Mr. Allan S. Klonick, is an active "birder" himself and has been an officer and editor in local and state bird groups. He is good at passing on to others his knack of recognizing birds in the field.

Dr. Edward T. Boardman, assistant director and curator of natural sciences, suggests that an early reservation be made since the course is limited to 25 persons. A reservation form is enclosed with this issue.

The fee for Museum Association members is \$5.00 for the course, or \$4.00 each if two or more in an immediate family enroll. The fee is \$7.00 for non-members of the Association.

### Plans and Elections

Most exciting at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Museum Association on January 11, was the announcement of the first gift to the Museum's plan for growth and expansion culminating in a Science Center of world-wide importance. Mr. and Mrs. M. Herbert Eisenhart presented the first gift of \$7,000 and thus established a plan for action.

To study and further the Science Center plan, three chairmen were named: For the building committee, Col. Carey H. Brown; for the gifts committee, Thomas E. McFarland and for the program committee, Charles L. Rumrill.

Mr. George H. Hawks, Jr., was re-elected president for a second term. Also re-elected were Charles L. Rumrill, vice-president; W. Stephen Thomas, executive vice-president; Harry E. Gordon, secretary. Mr. Thomas E. McFarland was elected treasurer to succeed Sherwood W. Smith.

Trustees re-elected for a term of five years include Arthur A. Davis, Fred Forman, Sherwood W. Smith and Morris Levinson. Mr. William S. Vaughn was elected a trustee for a term of five years to succeed Bernard E. Finucane whose term expired on December 31, 1959.

Dr. Robert E. Marshak was elected a trustee to fill the unexpired term of William MacFarlane to December 31, 1960 and Howard T. Cumming was elected to fill the unexpired term of Paul Miller to December 31, 1962.

Messrs. Bernard E. Finucane, William MacFarlane and Paul Miller were elected honorary trustees.

Activities for the year were reported by Mrs. William H. Morris, chairman of the Women's Council; Robert J. Gustafson, chairman of the Hobby Council and by Museum Director W. Stephen Thomas.

# Are Indians Real?

By Beverly Foster Smith, *Educational Assistant*

*The Time:* Almost any day

*The Place:* Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences

*The Setting:* Iroquois Longhouse Diorama

*The Victims:* Seneca Indians

*The Subject:* Murder or worse

*The Questioners:* School class with a wide-eyed child who really believes.

*The Questions:* "Did you kill the Indians?" or "Are they really stuffed?"

There is no horror involved, just honest questions from amazed little people. To say the diorama is life-like is an understatement. It is a wonderful scene showing family life within the longhouse and human size figures so perfect it is easily understood how children can think they must have lived. Another part of their confusion comes from having seen mounted birds and animals. If the animals are "stuffed," why not the Indians?

As the lesson is told, I am happy to report, the children are glad we didn't kill or stuff their friends. Still the Indians do not become big dolls, they remain real Indians for I have been asked their names.

In the center of the longhouse hangs a papoose on a cradle board, safely tucked in deerskin. There is always great interest as to whether the child is a boy or a girl. The fact that it is an Indian baby is not enough; the need for identity is there, for remember these are *real* Indians. The boys like to think the papoose is a boy and, of course, the girls like to think that it is a girl. To keep everyone happy my answer is that it is one of the mysteries of the museum. Perhaps that is not the best answer but it is one that satisfies.

One morning I was discussing the importance of the coming of metal and the great changes it brought to Indian life. We had talked of bone tools being replaced by metal and such change. A child raised his hand and in a thoughtful voice said, "Wasn't it nice when the Indians got metal, then they didn't have to kill each other." Naturally this aroused my curiosity, so I asked him to explain. His reply was, "Why, if they didn't need each others bones for tools, then they didn't need to kill each other any more." Bones belong to people and the thought of using animal bones for tools just wasn't there. I was glad this child had come to our museum for we were able to straighten his ideas out. What could be more convincing than being able to show the lower jaw of a deer that was used as a scraper? Even in a child's mind, this bone could not be human.

Many times the museum visit is followed up with some letters from the class. The children have the experience of writing a letter in school and we have a way of really finding out what they carry from the museum. These letters are the best kind of observation as to where lectures can be improved, for if major ideas are missing, then something is wrong.

One of these school letters contained my greatest compliment. It was oh, so carefully written (with no ink spots) and the last sentence read: "The next time we go on tour, I hope you'll be our tourist."

**COVER PICTURE** - A school class learning about life in the longhouse of the Seneca Indians.

Photograph by William G. Frank

# The Early Automobile Era in Art

By Peter Helck, N.A.

TODAY, even as fifty or more years ago, that channel of the graphic arts loosely called "sporting prints" implies, for the most part, subject matter dealing with the equine age. True, these tons of importations, from England mostly, also comprise the fistic science, the more genteel pastimes of cricket, tennis, golf and the sportsman's conquest of the deep blue, via great expanses of canvas rigged to fragile craft. But of this assortment the most popular by far and the most salable merchandise dealt with the species horse. Here are Grand National champions in slick profile; a wide range of fox-hunting incidents in Britain's shires and the seemingly endless series—by good artists and bad—of the coaching era. The vogue for the latter is still current, and that this is so seems strange in this time of man-made apparatus orbiting through outer space. But stranger still is the lack of any comparable quantities of art work depicting the transportation medium which, more than anything else, displaced the horse and all the attendant trappings from the scene.

For this omission we must probably blame the artist at the time of the transition from the era of the horse to that of the horseless carriage. The advent of the motorcar, and the dozen or more years of its earliest development, enlisted but slight interest from the artists and print makers of that day. When talents were engaged, as for instance by the German humorous weekly, *Das Schnaufferl*, of Munich, the themes usually reflected the widespread antagonism for the new, noisy, smelly mode of locomotion. When not actually hostile the policy was one of sharp ridicule of the reckless, vulgar participants of automobilism. This attitude underwent moderation when motoring concerns began using *Schnaufferl's* pages for advertising, thus anticipating a similar procedure with our own humorous weekly, the original *Life*, and Britain's *Punch*, as well.

In the so-called higher realms of artistic effort, it is significant that for many years the Royal Academy of London declined to consider works for its annual exhibitions which displayed, in one way or another, a representation of a motorcar!

With what seems to us today to have been a purposeful avoidance of the subject by so many of the turn-of-the-century artists, or perhaps their blindness to the pictorial potentials offered by the car, it is indeed gratifying to have present evidence that a handful of draughtsmen, designers and artists, (first abroad, later here), were cognizant of the pictorial, romantic, sporting and dramatic aspects of motoring and, as this exhibition proves, did something about it.

The first time the writer was confronted and bowled over by such art was the display of imported and expensive prints exhibited at Brentano's about 1906. These were stunning, spirited subjects by E. Montaut, of France, showing the winning cars of the great continental races. Here was ponderous machinery in a thunderous rush through romantic landscape. Distortions there were and derivations from the literal viewpoint, but the most important factors, the essence of speed and colorful drama, had been attained.

Because of this initial acquaintance, it was natural to consider E. Montaut as the leader of the small group concerned with automobile art, and this

impression was heightened by the subsequent appearance of these prints in the salesrooms of several motor and accessory firms along New York's "Automobile Row." However, this loan exhibition includes the works of some of the other able practitioners which, along with those of Montaut, have become collectors' items. This new evaluation is due, of course, to today's fascinating interest in antique automobiles. However, quite apart from this hobby aspect, some of these exhibits may be rightfully considered genuine works of art and excellent examples of the printing crafts.

Of these the lithograph by Aud Nevil is outstanding, a beautiful bit of design, comprising the compositional "tensions" so enamored by present-day art critics. Besides these aesthetic merits, the oncoming DeDietrich racer is sufficiently understood and so well rendered that it earned the approval of Baron DeDietrich himself. Another work which merits specific comment is the roadside picnic scene by Lucien Faure. This lithograph crops up frequently in print collections and deservedly so as it is cunningly contrived in design, dramatic in color and rich in humor of a brand transcending mere burlesque.

One must mention also the print by Georges Meunier with its ancient voiture afloat in an ocean of squirming sheep. Quite apart from its obvious humor, fine pictorial balance has been achieved and the work glows with a warmth of color and atmosphere testifying to this artist's understanding of natural phenomena.

The series "Les Rois de la Routes" are posters in the truest sense, executed with the sheer simplicity of the flat-tint medium. Lacking the usual exuberance of French design, they are more reminiscent of German graphic arts just before the first World War. They are, however, faithful interpretations of the victorious personalities and automobiles shown.

As this display of Automobilia emanates mostly from European sources, it seems fitting to mention briefly the regrettable absence of contemporary work produced in our country. First must come the name Edward Penfield. Intrigued always with wheeled vehicles, he was among the first to swing from painting horse-drawn coaches, elegant broughams and their 19th century personnel, to the new order. His motoring covers for *Colliers*, his posters and designs for advertisers, (Pierce-Arrow for one), make one regret his comparatively early demise. Another to go far too soon, at age 30, was Walter Appleton Clark. For *Colliers*, circa 1905-1906, he painted monster cars rushing through the night, Gordon Bennett and Vanderbilt Cup racers in full flight, human interest subjects in which beautifully-drawn Mercédès and Panhard cars were vital parts of the tableaux. All of these show a prime interest in the motoring theme and keen appreciation for the early automobile, both as a conveyance and as objects of potential beauty.

Others in the United States who contributed notably to early automobile art include J. C. Leyendecker, Coles Phillips, Adolphe Tiedler, John Sheridan, Wm. Harnden Foster, Robert Wildhack. Unlike their European contemporaries, whose work was produced in print form and available for purchase in the swankier print shops, the art of the above mentioned only survives, if at all, in the pages of ancient magazines and in a few collections.



# A Look at the Future Through Gifts

By Florence A. Taylor, *Registrar*

DURING THE month of February the museum will have a temporary exhibit showing a few of the 1959 contributions to its collections. More than 3,725 gifts have been contributed during the year. Because of the limited space in our exhibition halls only a few things can be displayed at one time. As planned each department in the museum will be represented. Gifts sometimes are displayed with other material, or, in the case of a collection, they are displayed as a special exhibit, such as the napkin rings recently acquired by will. It is not always possible to use gifts at once, but they are distributed to each curator where they are catalogued and kept in the department until needed. (Anthropology, History, Biology, Library, etc.). Objects given for the School Service Division are usually boxed and sent out to schools and institutions as requested. Some things are reserved for lectures within the building and occasionally are used in lectures given outside.

Most gifts are personally brought into the museum. It is always a source of pleasure to meet the original donor. In the event of cleaning attic or house, moving or dismantling homes, stores or barns, upon request, a representative from the museum will call, inspect whatever is offered and make arrangements for our truck to pick up the material. We cannot always accept items offered because we have duplicates or lack space for storing, or it does not fit in with our plans of exhibition nor can it be used in the school loan section. We find it hard to refuse, but when the situation is explained to the donor it is usually understood.

Recently a lady from Avon, N. Y., brought in two children's dresses which were worn in 1893. These were worn by twins, Elnor and Louise Hartman, when 5 years of age. They were born in Palmyra, Indiana, October 8, 1888. We have many items worn by children but this is the first time "twin" dresses have been given to us.

A telephone call received in my office resulted in the donation of "The Naturalist Library" published in 1843. The books are a rare gift with beautiful color plates and were given in memory of the donor's parents.

Another personal visitation was by an elderly lady who made a special trip to the museum. She wished to contribute her doll's china head to our fine collection of toys. In 1886 it was given to her and she was proud to say its name was "Minnie." Our doll collection is growing steadily and is a source of delight to all who see them when on exhibition.

Two French burr mill stones, over 125 years old, made in France was another acquisition brought in from Springwater, N. Y. These will be placed near the herb and rose garden in the spring.

An offer of a doll carriage from a rummage sale proved to be one made by a Rochester firm, the Uhlen Carriage Co. The foresight of the donor saved the carriage for future exhibition in the museum. Rather than have another lady use it to wheel home her rummage she procured it for a quarter.

One lady, while taking care of an estate in the city, remembered the museum and came in to inquire if we would like some things she had in the back of her car. She felt they belonged in the museum. Upon examination we found a beautiful framed sampler, also two lovely fans.



Packages often come in by mail with source unknown. Usually the objects can be used, but it seems too bad not to be able to thank the sender. Also, packages are often left at the Information Desk. We are most anxious to know the source, also history, if any. For this reason a personal call to the department or Registrar's office is strongly urged before leaving packages. (BRowing 1-4320). Please have name and address of donor on packages.

People are becoming more conscious of the museum and its needs and remember us in their wills. Many fine objects come to us in this manner. Occasionally a financial stipend is received to be used as the Board of Commissioners deem wise.

Occasionally, we are the recipient of modern-day things from local business establishments. These gifts, though modern, are very acceptable as we look forward to building up our collections for the future. Superba Cravats, Inc. have kept us in mind, as well as B. Forman Company, and each year present the museum with some article of today's mode of fashion.

Often we are asked "What do you need?"—"What can the museum use?" Checking with the curators as to what they felt might be helpful in adding to material for installing exhibits in their departments, I have been given the following suggestions:

1. *Anthropology Department* will be pleased to receive old Iroquois material. Of particular interest is material which is accompanied by a story.
2. *Natural Science Section* suggests the following:  
Minerals—exhibition-size specimens, especially from New York State.  
Fossils—outstanding specimens from known localities, local or otherwise.  
Insects, snakes, turtles and fish—unusual species are always welcome.  
Mounted bird collections are welcome if birds were collected locally and have date and locality data.  
Small living animals which are too small to interest a zoo are useful to the museum.
3. *School Service Division* will gratefully accept dolls, models, wood carvings, textiles, miniature furniture, articles from foreign lands. At present articles from Switzerland are especially needed for circulating exhibits. National Geographic magazines for clipping and mounting are also needed.
4. *Culture History Division* has many suggestions for exhibition purposes: Catalogues, old and recent dates on any subject; eye glasses, old and modern; small pieces of carpeting or small rugs for use in exhibition case floors; fashion magazines (old and recent dates); wooden kitchen utensils and tools, small gardening tools, packages of seeds; samples of textiles, toys and dolls (old and new); silver, set of knives and forks for setting a table, pewter, china and glassware; old valentines, some comic ones; photographs. Children's and ladies' clothing is always acceptable and if accompanied by a photograph showing the individual wearing the garment, it is most desirable.
5. *Library*: Civil War documents; letters, advertisements, bills, especially of local interest; local firms' catalogues; material on canals—Erie, Genesee Valley or other canals; pictures of Rochester (suitable for filing), buildings, streets, events, houses, identified and dated if possible; political campaign material; National Geographic magazines since 1950; county histories of New York State (except for Monroe County); old children's books, school books, (only if they are before 1850); old books on unusual subjects.

We hope our 1959 donors' exhibit will be of interest to many and will spur others to become "museum conscious" during 1960. As stated many times before we are very appreciative to the many who have helped us enlarge our collections and have helped make the museum worth while.

# The Tree—A Marvelous Organism

By John R. Williams, M.D., *Chairman,*  
*Municipal Museum Commission*

IN ITS structure and functions the tree is as complex as is the body of man. In many respects they closely resemble each other. Each is supreme in its own kingdom—man in the animal, the tree in the plant world. For existence they are mutually dependent. The tree has the same struggles for existence as man. Extremes of heat and cold, disease, insects and faulty nutrition are constant threats to each. Limitations of space permit only a rough cataloguing of what occurs in the tree. This article will be concerned mainly with the leaf.

The leaf is a vital and scientifically baffling organ. It consists of two thin plates between which lodges a combination of tiny tubes and a great paste-like mass of cells called *mesophyll*. These cells contain bundles of matter called *chloroplasts*. The principal and most important contribution of the leaf is the making of *chlorophyll*, the most marvelous accomplishment of nature.

The leaf has three functions—respiration, transpiration and photosynthesis. The first, respiration, serves a purpose similar to that of the lungs of man. The second and more important, transpiration, regulates the amount of water in the soil surrounding the tree, as well as controlling excessive rainfall. This is of great importance in soil conservation. Its third function is its synthesis of food. With the aid of the actinic rays of the sun, it combines gases breathed in from the atmosphere with water and minerals from the roots to make sugars, starches and pigments. This feat, baffling to the most learned of scientists, is known as *photosynthesis*.

The tubule or circulatory system, which rests on the lower plate, can readily be seen on the underside of the leaf. This system, which helps support the leaf, empties into the central vein. This central vein continues on into the leaf stem which is connected with a twig or branch. Through this circulatory system is carried on a flow of water and salts from the roots and soil. It also carries from the leaf, back to the tree and its branches, supplies of newly created food.

Where the leaf joins the twig is a marvelous valve-like arrangement which both controls and regulates this flow. The undersurface of the leaf is perforated by tiny pores, called *stomata*, many thousands of them to the square inch. The outlet of each pore is guarded by a valve-like device which regulates and controls the flow of gases and moisture from the atmosphere. The prodigious amount of work done by these pores or stomata is almost beyond comprehension. For example, under certain conditions a large oak may throw off, through its leaf system, as much as a ton of water a day. Or, it may breathe in through the same pores, in the course of 24 hours, thousands of gallons of air and gases. The leafy system of a large tree is an air conditioner far superior to any invented by man.

In the autumn season of the year the pigmentation of foliage claims our attention and admiration. The most important of these is chlorophyll, the green substance which colors all foliage and which plays such a vital part in the life of the tree. Beneath this is a yellow pigment xanthophyll, a carbo-

hydrate, serving both as a food and leaf protective. There are two others of less importance, carotin, which gives color to carrots not prominent in tree foliage and anthocyan, a vivid red, which adds glamour tones and hues to the maples, oaks and other trees in the fall. These marvelous dyes are made in the mesophyll cells from the simple gaseous components of the atmosphere and from the water and salts of the soil. As the fall season wears on, nature reverses the physical activities of the tree. The leaf stops its creative processes and starts sending its stored material down into the branches and the trunk where it forms new wood. First to leave through the central vein and stem are the stored sugars, starches and chlorophyll. As they leave, the yellow background of xanthophyll is seen. If there are but two pigments in the leaf, this soon disintegrates, the valve at the end of the leaf stem closes, the leaf quickly dies and falls to the ground. Where the bright red anthocyan is present this remains for some time to add beauty to the tree.

The foliage of the oak tree is rich in tannic acid, the chemical used in the tanning of leather. It serves the same purpose in the leaf, makes it tough, leather-like and explains why oak leaves cling to a tree throughout the winter and disintegrate so slowly.

The following brief statements summarize other important facts. The total weight of a year's foliage is equal to the amount of new wood deposited in the trunk and branches. A seedling tree has leaves of enormous size. Nature's way of producing rapid trunk growth. When the dead leaves fall to the ground they carry with them the stored valuable mineral elements that were elaborated during the year. When nature is undisturbed by thoughtless man, they disintegrate to form humus and tree food for the next season. But when they are carted away and burned, man inflicts a serious loss on both the soil and the tree. It takes from three hundred to six hundred years to make one inch of top soil. Disease seriously impairs the functions of the leafy system and while it may not be fatal to the tree, it seriously impairs its growth and usefulness.

This is the first of two articles on the importance of trees to man.

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### Modern Landmark—Old Ones, Too

"Two blocks farther east stands the avenue's most impressive modern landmark—the *Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences*." So states Dr. Blake McKelvey, City Historian and Fellow of Rochester Museum, in the January, 1960, issue of *ROCHESTER HISTORY*, published quarterly by Rochester Public Library. Titled "An Historic Site Tour of Old and New Landmarks," Dr. McKelvey takes his readers on an up-to-date downtown walking tour and then to west side and east side landmarks. Of the Museum, he says "... this fine building houses a public-supported museum of outstanding merit. A stroll through its many exhibits will lead the imaginative observer back and forth through centuries of time, through successive cultures and through several fields of science; the experience will prompt him to make early plans for a return visit."

Copies are available free at the Rochester Public Library, or by mail at 25c per year.

# The Expanding Role of the Hobby Council in the Community

BY Robert J. Gustafson, *Chairman,  
Rochester Museum Hobby Council*

SINCE ITS formation, the Hobby Council of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences has served as a unifying force for its component clubs in a number of ways. Panel discussions have been held at Hobby Council meetings with participants who were well-versed in publicity, membership and programming. Through these discussions it is felt that the quality of meetings has been improved and average attendance increased. Visitations by Hobby Council officers to club meetings has served to acquaint the clubs with the Council's activities. The Hobby Council has acted as a clearing house through which requests for information have been channelled to the club in whose province the request lies. In this way membership in clubs has been increased by the addition of actively-interested persons who sought such affiliation. Referrals to clubs for appraisals of stamps, coins and antiques have also been carried through the Hobby Council as the clearing house.

With increasing awareness of the value of hobbies, many organizations, more general in nature than hobby groups, have requested assistance. These groups include Parent-Teacher associations management groups, industrial pension and employee relation departments, schools, libraries, veterans hospitals and youth organizations, such as the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Parent-Teacher associations have requested speakers for meetings, assistance in setting up hobby shows and providing exhibit judges once hobby shows are scheduled. The Hobby Council has found this a very broad area in which to render service. From the time of decision by the P.T.A. program authorities to hold a hobby show to the judging of the finished event, the Council has been available for advice, physical resources and technical assistance. Where the variety of hobby subjects available to the program committee has often been limited to the more common hobbies, i.e., philately, coin collecting and horticulture, the Council has been able to add 'spice' to the show by supplementing noncompetitive exhibits such as heraldry, antique refinishing, antique car collecting and hooked rugs. Since the aims of the P.T.A. has been to encourage activities in which the whole family can participate, the exhibits furnished by the council have been chosen accordingly.

To management groups and industrial employee relations and pension departments, the problems that go with retirement are important. The worker whose job has kept him occupied through most of his waking hours finds, upon retirement, that time lies heavily upon him. Thus, those free hours which have been looked forward to with anticipation for many years must be filled with some activity, if retirement is to be more than a period of stagnation. It is important that employees be encouraged to acquire a hobby well in advance of retirement so as to ease the transition from a forty-hour work week to a forty-hour hobby week. By meeting in groups with sound counseling, the future pensioner can decide upon an avocational activity which will be stimulating, productive and within his retirement income.

*(Continued on page 34)*



# Rochester Museum Activities for 1959 . . .

## A Summary of the Director's Annual Report

Increased community service was the dominant note in the trends revealed in museum activities for 1959. It is highly gratifying, too, to report that our total attendance (172,355) showed an increase of 7,613 over that of the preceding year. Despite the fact that children of our region receive outstanding benefits in the form of classes, guided tours, clubs, film programs and other offerings, two-thirds of our total clientele is comprised of adults. Some other high lights of the year were the larger number and variety of our temporary exhibits (74), our new cooperative loan exhibits prepared by 15 industries, a greater number of hobby shows reflecting renewed vigor on the part of the Rochester Museum Hobby Council and, finally, an increased number of foreign visitors (44) from 17 different countries. We owe a special debt of gratitude to our valiant and overburdened staff who met the additional demands upon them with cheerfulness and devotion.

### Museum Attendance

1958		1959	
37	Sunday Programs . . . . .	33,205	36 Sunday Programs . . . . . 30,377
13	Association Lectures . . . . .	5,506	13 Association Lectures . . . . . 5,341
324	Adult Hobby Club Meetings	12,537	358 Adult Hobby Club Meetings 11,619
61	Non-Affiliated Adult Group Meetings . . . . .	5,413	46 Non-Affiliated Adult Group Meetings . . . . . 4,881
32	Adult Education Course Meetings . . . . .	429	25 Adult Education Course Meetings . . . . . 720
885	School Service Lectures, Classes, Programs . . . . .	32,529	809 School Service Lectures, Classes, Programs . . . . . 29,216
124	Unguided Tours—Children.	4,018	250 Unguided Tours—Children. 7,601
36	Museum Sponsored Adult Groups . . . . .	2,605	30 Museum Sponsored Adult Groups . . . . . 1,900
310	Week-Day Average Attendance . . . . .	66,000	310 Week-Day Average Attendance . . . . . 78,700
6	Days Special Playground Exhibit . . . . .	2,500	6 Days Special Playground Exhibit . . . . . 2,000
GRAND TOTAL . . . . .		164,742	GRAND TOTAL . . . . . 172,355
NET INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE—1959 . . . . .		7,613	

### Acquisition and Research

Again, we must point out that the mere operations of acquiring and processing objects for museum use and doing the necessary research to make our vast holdings useful requires the full-time skill of a number of staff. One of these is the Registrar who records accessions and is responsible for storage. In 1959 we received approximately 3,900 separate objects as gifts from 304 different donors. Acquisitions included historic clothing, Peruvian grave objects, furniture, including a Hepplewhite desk, jewelry, ceramics, toys, technical equipment and bird specimens. One especially important gift was the photographs, negatives, drawings, blueprints and record books, constituting the archives of the James P. Cunningham & Son Co., generously donated by the children of the late Francis Cunningham; namely, Messrs. Michael and Peter Cunningham and Mrs. Murat Williams.

Research and study comprise significant duties of our curatorial departments and our library.

Our Anthropologist reports: "On the Fletcher Site in Ontario County we sought information regarding structures in an early prehistoric Iroquois Village. Our findings were inconclusive although 21 days were consumed in this quest. Still, the artifacts and negative evidence have increased our knowledge of this period of occupation. The second site was the Frog Mound (New York Hopewellian Culture) in Livingston County. This mound had been investigated previously, but had not been completely excavated. In addition, 26 sites were visited and the nature of their occupation assessed. An important research tool was acquired as a gift of the Rochester Museum Association. This is the File of Radiocarbon Dates. (See *Museum Service*, November 1959)."

Our Biologist states: "The original project of getting a fairly complete 35mm color slide record of the flora and ecology of Bergen Swamp was extended to include Zurich Bog near Newark, N. Y. A personally financed photographic project has been a color picture record of the ecology of Florida, chiefly the southern half, and pictures of native and exotic flowering plants that grow there. Almost 400 slides were added this year, making a total of 1,000 slides.

"Another project, very incomplete, has been worked on with our Photographer. This is to make magazine quality black and white photographs of all the herbs of the museum garden and to have 35mm slides of each. The Herbarium of the Rochester Academy of Science, housed in the Bausch House, has had active use and has been improved physically from time-to-time by the Botany Section of the Academy of Science, under the supervision of Dr. Babette Brown Coleman, F.R.M."

Our Curator of Culture History writes: "Research takes a large share of the attention of this division. During the year it involved: (1) Milling in general—Rochester in particular, (2) Weaving—primitive, Colonial, foreign and modern, (3) Petroleum—ancient use before 1859 and the 100 years since the drilling of the Drake Well at Titusville, (4) Spectacles, (5) Fashions. We are building up representative files in such categories as: trades and occupations; fashions, "Year by Year"—pictures, clippings, newspapers and magazines; trimmings, textiles, recreations, sports, etc."

The Museum Librarian states: "The Reference Library of the Museum is used not only by the staff and volunteers but also by the general public for information in certain fields. It is also a storehouse for old and rare books, periodicals, maps, newspapers, documents, letters and pictures. One of the important research problems of the past year was the assistance given the RAETA—Board of Education television program on the Genesee Country. Material was prepared for museum staff participating (7), as well as school teachers and others."

## Art and Preparation in Exhibits

High quality in production has been maintained by the corps of five full-time artists and preparators. Mr. David T. Crothers devoted a major portion of his time to the preparation of plastic models and accessories as well as background painting of the diorama depicting an Ocean Tide Pool of the Atlantic Coast. This exhibit is in the last stages of preparation. Mr. Jon H.

Alexander has been engaged in the construction of an important scale model of the Granite flour mill which flourished in Rochester from 1830 to 1850. This will be a major addition to our Hall of Culture History and will eventually be important for the story of Rochester industry. Mr. William F. Fraatz worked on a multitude of art projects, chiefly with temporary exhibits which included drawings, plans, installations and lettering. He prepared a total of 23 special exhibits and made many posters, labels, mats, mountings and certificates. Mr. Douglas L. Howland undertook and almost completed two fresh water fish dioramas. One of these shows pond fishes, the other, fishes of Canandaigua Lake. These involved making of models and the painting of backgrounds, as well as field work. Miss Mollie Jo Bernstein, assigned to School Service, completed three dioramas for circulation and supervised the making of four others by volunteers. There were ten volunteers working under her direction, eight of them Junior Leaguers.

An inventory of permanent exhibits reveals the following division: NATURE and EARTH SCIENCE (First Floor) 71 exhibits; STORY OF MAN (Second Floor) 100; HALL OF OPTICAL SCIENCE (Second Floor) 20; CULTURE HISTORY (Third Floor) 65 exhibits. In addition, we showed 74 special or temporary exhibits during 1959. This is an unusually large number and is 22 more than the preceding year.

Large displays were WEAVING ARTS: A contrast between primitive Guatemalan and modern hand weaving. For this display, which ran from April 7 to August 30, Dr. and Mrs. Carroll W. Dodge, of St. Louis, Mo., loaned 149 textiles. The second large exhibit was PETROLEUM—*Its Early Beginnings*, consisting of educational and historical material secured through the courtesy of the New York State Petroleum Council. It opened on September 24 and will run until February 22, 1960.

Some of the most notable of our varied series of other special exhibitions during the year were: *The 24th Kodak International Salon of Photography*—200 prints: *Horse Portraits* by Mrs. Elizabeth Bell; *Sea People of the Sulu Archipelago*, oil sketches by Mrs. Lucie Palmer; *Quest for the Divine Mushroom, An Ancient Rite Rediscovered*, color photographs loaned by Mr. R. Gordon Wasson; *The Sea Beach at Ebb Tide*, color photographs by Jeanette Klute and *Wild Life Paintings* by H. Wayne Trimm, loaned by the New York State Conservation Department.

## Special Events and Community Cooperation

The Museum's calendar was crowded with healthy activity in the form of Sunday film showings, Association lectures, flower and hobby shows and many other events. As an experiment, educational films were projected for youthful audiences in our large auditorium on Washington's Birthday, celebrated on February 23, and Columbus Day, October 12. There were four large flower shows during the year, attracting a total of 4,978 persons. Six hobby shows revealed the active interests of the more than 5,000 hobbyists enrolled in the 30 club affiliates of the Rochester Museum Hobby Council. These events were the Mineral Hobby Show, collectors' displays in the Museum Library during January; the Personnel Managers' Night celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Hobby Council on January 13; the "Year of History" Stamp Show, April 24-26; The Junior Philatelic Exhibit, May 10-30; the Upper New York State Chinchilla Show on September 27, and

the Eighth Annual Cage Bird Show, November 5-8.

"Pan-American Night" was celebrated at the Museum by a double event on the evening of April 7 with a color-slide lecture "Rochester Looks At Latin America" by Clifford Carpenter of the *Democrat and Chronicle* and the opening of the weaving arts show featuring Guatemalan textiles. Another double offering came on May 10 when two Guatemalan Indian girls from San Cristobel de Totonicapan demonstrated weaving. On the same day, on the first floor, high school boys and girls displayed their prize exhibits which had won awards at the Brockport Science Congress.

Our "Garden of Fragrance" now including 105 separate varieties of plants in 8 herb beds and more than 220 shrubs of historic types of roses was opened on June 19 with a reception. Our Biologist estimates that at least 6,200 persons visited the Garden during 1959.

New York State "Year of History" was also marked by the Award Night, June 10, for the winners of the Essay Contest of the Year of History. That same evening, the Museum opened its exhibit "Trades and Occupations of Rochester 125 years Ago" installed by the Curator of History and displaying objects and pictures illustrating 15 trades and occupations.

For the third year the Museum cooperated with the Rochester Council of Scientific Societies, on December 29-30-31, in offering counseling days for high school boys and girls interested in careers in engineering and science. An estimated 97 students were talked to by the 18 men and women scientists. Displays of prize-winning exhibits for the 1959 Brockport Science Congress were an added attraction. On Wednesday, December 30, a team of boys and teachers from Edison Technical High School put on a demonstration "Operation Moonshot" giving insight into rocket instrumentation and propulsion. In spite of very bad weather, an estimated 1,500 students attended during the three days.

As a Municipal institution, the Museum had even stronger ties with city activities during the year. On March 25, "Student's Day in City Government" was marked by the presence in the Museum of Miss Kathie McConville, a junior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, who served as "Director for the Day" to learn museum management. The Director served on the Mayor's Rennes-Rochester Committee and also on Rochester's Committee for the Year of History, headed by Arch Merrill. The Museum also received recognition from the business and industrial community through the director's post as Chairman of the World Affairs Council of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce during 1959. The Museum participated in the lecture program on City government presented at Rochester Products Division of General Motors.

Focusing attention of all Rochesterians upon the Museum and stressing its role as a cultural agency was the Annual Museum Convocation held on May 22 when the Civic Medal was awarded to Marion B. Folsom, former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Six Fellowships were given to distinguished educators, scientists and amateur specialists.

### School Service Division

Again, our School Service Division can be proud of its full year of achievement having served over 160,000 young people both in and outside the museum building. The lectures for elementary classes totaled 534 with 17,178



individuals, as against 548 lectures to 18,919 in 1958. In addition, there were 235 meetings of Junior Museum clubs, attended by 5,794, a slight increase in attendance over that in the previous year. Also, there were 21 Treasure Chest (pantomime drama) programs witnessed by 3,446 children, six Audubon Screen Tour film lectures on Saturday mornings, two Parents' programs, a Teacher's Workshop and a class on Museum Techniques. Five sessions of the Nature Leaders Training Institute, now in its twelfth year, were given in May with a total attendance of 170.

An innovation in the spring was a training course for senior Girl Scouts assisting in the Museum Aide program. Sessions were held April 4 and April 11 under the Head of School Service and the Director. For the first time, the Biologist arranged a series of courses for merit badge instruction in Botany and Herpetology for Boy Scouts which were given by volunteer leaders in the museum on eight successive evenings during April and May.

During the summer 716 boys and girls, from ages of 4 to 16 years, registered for the 14 summer clubs which included "Nature Trails," "Adventures in History," "Indian Crafts" and others. In addition to our regular staff of eight persons, seven persons, some of them former counselor trainees were engaged on a part-time basis. This year we received requests for and granted more scholarships (18) than in previous years. The young people who enrolled in the Counselor Training program were an unusually fine group. Five staff members resigned and six were added during the year. On December 7, the Board of Commissioners regretfully accepted the resignation of Miss Marion R. Peake, as Head of School Service, to become effective December 31. She had served with the Museum for 26 years and had built the division into a highly effective unit.

## Extension Services

Much good accrues from the successful efforts of the Museum to reach out into the community and extend its services, although handicapped by insufficient personnel for this purpose. Through our School Service Division, 4,194 exhibits consisting of dioramas, models and boxes of costumes, implements and artifacts were loaned *outside* the Museum for the use of 131,986 young people, as against 4,487 exhibits used by 118,516 individuals in 1958. In addition to these objects specifically prepared for use in school classes, there was also a large quantity of material from our various divisions of Anthropology, Culture History and Biology. The latter included 664 objects loaned to 57 institutions such as other museums, the Fire Bureau, Seneca Park Zoo, Public Library, department stores and industrial firms. This contrasts with only 421 objects loaned to 24 institutions in 1958. One important loan of folk art material was exhibited in the International Cultural Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as part of the International Trade Fair. The United States Information Agency made the request and the loan was arranged through the courtesy of the Suffolk Museum, Stony Brook, L. I., N. Y.

Our museum staff continues to be in demand by all sorts of organizations to lecture on specific fields of its specialty such as natural sciences, archeology, Indian lore and culture history. Besides, groups wish speakers on the public services of the Museum. In 1959 seven staff members gave one hundred talks to a total of 9,560 persons. Our Curator of Biology reports that

he answered over 300 personal and telephone inquiries on a multitude of subjects including animals, birds, insects and plants. The Curator of Anthropology answered the queries of approximately 246 visitors to his division office, laboratory and excavation sites, an increase of 57 over the previous year. The increase was most evident in non-local visitors. There were 41 more than last year, or an increase of almost 100%. Among these were Europeans and Canadians seeking information on museum practices and non-professional archeologists from widely scattered parts of western New York.

## High Light of the Year

One of the great achievements of 1959 was the planning with the able assistance of the Planning Committee of the Rochester Museum Association, headed by Dr. J. Edward Hoffmeister, for the future expansion of this institution's physical facilities. This effort culminated in the completion of an architectural model and drawings for three additional buildings including a building for the basic sciences and a Planetarium. These were prepared by Robert Napier, a graduate student at the Pratt Institute School of Architecture, Brooklyn, N. Y., for which he secured his master's degree in architecture. The release of these plans through the medium of a front-page news story with pictures in the *Democrat and Chronicle* on November 22 and illustrated articles in the Rochester Chamber of Commerce magazine, *Greater Rochester Commerce*; *Museum Service* and in *Museum News*, official publication of the American Association of Museums had a most favorable effect on public thinking and undoubtedly comprised the high light for 1959.

Respectfully submitted to the Museum Board of Commissioners, January 11, 1960.

—W. STEPHEN THOMAS, *Director*

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## Hobby Council — (Continued from page 28)

For schools and youth organizations counseling, speakers and contributions of hobby materials are of the greatest value. Junior hobby groups have been sponsored directly by Council affiliated clubs, including the Rochester Junior Philatelic Association and the Rochester Junior Numismatic Association. In addition, counselors have been furnished by member clubs to city and county schools where interest has been shown in hobbies.

The "individual hobbyist" is being encouraged to attend our meetings and participate in our activities. These persons are those whose interests are not shared by enough others to warrant an attempt at organizing.

Another major activity of Hobby Council officers is the preparation of a directory of affiliated hobby clubs, which includes the club aims, meeting time and location, and officers' names and addresses. This directory will be available in a new edition in January, 1960, and may be obtained by request directed to the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences. Industrial groups and schools may secure quantities for distribution to employees and students.

In summation, the present goal of the Rochester Museum Hobby Council is to be of maximum value to the community through its many facets of activity.

- 2 Tuesday Rochester Rose Society — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Numismatic Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Opportune Club — 8 p.m.
- 3 Wednes. Genesee Cat Fanciers Club — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Aquarium Society — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Amateur Radio Ass'n — 8 p.m.
- 4 Thursday Rochester Cage Bird Club — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Academy of Science—Mineral — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Dahlia Society — 8 p.m.
- 5 Friday Rochester Academy of Science—Astronomy — 8 p.m.
- 6 Saturday **AUDUBON SCREEN TOUR — DESIGNS FOR SURVIVAL** by William Anderson  
Youth Series, Rochester Museum Assn. — 10:30 a.m.
- 7 Sunday **MOVIES IN COLOR — 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. — Himalayas - Life on the Roof of the World, The Moon and How It Affects Us, African Fauna**
- 9 Tuesday Rochester Museum Hobby Council — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Academy of Science—Botany — 8 p.m.
- 10 Wednes. **Illustrated Lecture — PEOPLE AND PLACE OF INDIA —** by John Moyer —  
Adult Series, Rochester Museum Association— 8:15 p.m.  
Rochester Amateur Radio Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Academy of Science—Ornithology — 8 p.m.
- 11 Thursday Rochester Amateur Radio Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Philatelic Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Junior Philatelic Club — 7 to 9 p.m.
- 12 Friday Morgan Chapter, N.Y.S.A.A. — 8 p.m.  
Eastern Leathercraft Guild — 8 p.m.
- 13 Saturday **TREASURE CHEST FOR CHILDREN — Canal Town — 3 showings —**  
**9:30, 10:10 and 11 a.m.**
- 14 Sunday **MOVIES IN COLOR — 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. — Colonial Shipbuilding and Sea Trade, Navajo - A People Between Two Worlds, Lands and Waters of Our Earth**
- 16 Tuesday Rochester Numismatic Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Opportune Club — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Button Club — 1 p.m.  
Optical Society of America — 8 p.m.
- 17 Wednes. Monroe County Hooked Rug Guild — 10 a.m.  
Upper N.Y.S. Branch, National Chinchilla Breeders — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Print Club — 8 p.m.  
Genesee Weavers — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Amateur Radio Ass'n — 8 p.m.
- 18 Thursday Genesee Valley Gladiolus Society — 8 p.m.
- 19 Friday Junior Numismatic Club — 7:30 p.m.  
Monroe Art Guild — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Academy of Science—Weather—8 p.m.
- 21 Sunday **MOVIES IN COLOR — 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. — Boyhood of George Washington, Our National Anthem, War of Independence - 1775 - 1783**
- 23 Tuesday Rochester Rabbit Breeders Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Rochester Antiquarian League — 8 p.m.
- 24 Wednes. Rochester Amateur Radio Ass'n — 8 p.m.
- 25 Thursday Genesee Valley Quilt Club — 10:30 a.m.  
Rochester Philatelic Ass'n — 8 p.m.  
Junior Philatelic Club — 7 to 9 p.m.  
Men's Garden Club — 8 p.m.
- 26 Friday Burroughs Audubon Nature Club — 7:45 p.m.  
Rochester Archers — 8 p.m.
- 27 Saturday **TREASURE CHEST FOR CHILDREN — Canal Town — 3 Showings —**  
**9:30, 10:10, and 11 a.m.**
- 28 Sunday **MOVIES IN COLOR — 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. — Colonial Family of New France, The Vanishing Americas (Rochester to Salamanca)**

— All bookings subject to change and substitution without notice.



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